

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-31, without prejudice, and add new claims 32-62 as follows.

Claims 1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A method of allocating one of a plurality of serving call state control functions to a subscriber, the method including:

receiving load information from a plurality of serving call state control functions in a signalling message; and

determining a serving call state control function for the subscriber in dependence on the received load information, wherein the step of determining a serving call state control function is carried out by a network resource.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the network resource is the interrogating call state control function.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the network resource is a home subscriber server.

35. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subscriber is either located in a visited network or a home network and is registered in a home network.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the load information indicates the actual current load of the serving call state control function.

37. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the load information indicates the availability of the call state control function.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the load information indicates a time period in which the serving call state control function cannot receive further subscriber registrations.

39. (New) The method of claim 32, further including a session between a serving call state control function and interrogating call state control function for transmitting the availability information.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, further including sessions between interrogating call state control function and a plurality of serving call state control functions.

41. (New) The method claim 39, further including transmitting an unavailability signal within the session from the serving call state control function to interrogating call state control function to indicate unavailability of the serving call state control to receive subscriber registrations.

42. (New) the method of claim 39, further including transmitting an availability signal within the session from the serving call state control function to the interrogating call state control function to indicate availability of the serving call state control function to receive subscriber registrations.

43. (New) The method of claim 39 further including transmitting a keep-alive signal within the session from the serving call state control function to the interrogating call state control function to indicate availability of the serving call state control function to receive subscriber registrations.

44. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein the signalling message is related to subscriber registration.

45. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the signalling message is related to a session between a serving call state control function and interrogating call state control function.

46. (New) The method according to claim 44, wherein the signalling message is one of a 200 OK, INVITE, SUSPEND, or RESUME SIP Requests.

47. (New) The method according to claim 44 wherein the signalling message is one of a Cx_Put, Cx_Put Resp, Cx_Pull, or a Cx_Pull Resp messages.

48. (New) The method of claim 32 in which the serving call state control function is selected on a session basis.

49. (New) A method according to claim 32 in which the subscriber is located in a home network or a visited network, and the serving call state control function is located in the home network.

50. (New) A network element for allocating one of a plurality of serving call state control function means to a subscriber, the network including a home network comprising an interrogating call state control function means and a plurality of serving call state control function means;

wherein the interrogating call state control function means receives load information from a plurality of the serving call state control function means in a signalling message; and a broker associated with the network element determines a

serving call state control function means for the subscriber in dependence on the received load information.

51. (New) A network element according to claim 50, wherein the network element is the interrogating call state control function.

52. (New) A network element according to claim 51, wherein the network element is a home subscriber server.

53. (New) A network element according to claim 50, wherein the network further includes a visited network, wherein the subscriber is connected in either the visited network or the home network.

54. (New) A network element according to claim 50 wherein the interrogating call state control function means receives load information from a plurality of serving call state control functions.

55. (New) A network element according to claim 50 wherein the load information indicates the availability of a call state control function.

56. (New) A network element according to claim 50 wherein the signalling message is related to subscriber registration.

57. (New) A network element according to claim 50 further including a session between a serving call state control function for transmitting the availability information.

58. (New) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the signalling message is related to a session between a serving call state control function and interrogating call state control function.

59. (New) A network element according to claim 57, wherein the signalling message is one of a 200 OK, INVITE, SUSPEND, or RESUME SIP Requests.

60. (New) A network element according to claim 56, wherein the signalling message is one of a Cx_Put, Cx_Put Resp, Cx_Pull, or a Cx_Pull Resp messages.

61. (New) A mobile wireless communications system including a home network, wherein the home network includes a network element for allocating one of a plurality of serving call state control function means provided in the home network to a subscriber, the home network further comprising an interrogating call state control function means; wherein the interrogating call state control function means receives load information from a plurality of the serving call state control function means; and a broker associated with the network element determines a serving call state control function means for the subscriber in dependence on the received load information.

62. (New) A mobile wireless communication system according to claim 61 further including a visited network, wherein the subscriber is connected in either the visited network or the home network.